

[54] **PROCESS FOR PRODUCING DECORATIVE ARTICLES**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A process for producing decorative articles having patterns of surface concavities and convexities (unevennesses) comprises the steps of:

- (1) placing into mutual contact and laminating a hardenable decorative material layer and an expansion-contraction deformable sheet provided with regions susceptible to expansion-contraction deformation and regions not susceptible to said deformation;
- (2) causing the deformable sheet to undergo said deformation under pressure thereby to impart a pattern of unevennesses to the decorative material layer in contact with the sheet; and
- (3) causing the hardenable decorative material layer to fully harden.

The sheet deformed under pressure imparts a unique pattern of surface unevennesses corresponding to the two kinds of regions to the decorative material layer. Decorative articles thus obtained can be applied to a wide variety of uses as materials for decorating architectural exteriors and interiors and as decorative boards. The degree of surface unevenness can be controlled by adjusting the pressure. Colored patterns corresponding to the unevennesses can also be formed.

19 Claims, 19 Drawing Figures

